

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910464338103321
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Titolo	Family and Household Religion : Toward a Synthesis of Old Testament Studies, Archaeology, Epigraphy, and Cultural Studies
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Winona Lake, Indiana : , : Eisenbrauns, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	1-57506-886-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (335 p.)
Disciplina	296.7/409014
Soggetti	RELIGION - Judaism - General Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Book.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Women's Rites of Passage in Ancient Israel Three Case Studies (Birth, Coming of Age, and Death) -- The Relevance of Hebrew Name Seals for Reconstructing Judahite and Israelite Family Religion -- The Household as Sacred Space -- Philistine Cult and Household Religion according to the Archaeological Record -- Anomalies in the Archaeological Record Evidence for Domestic and Industrial Cults in Central Jordan -- The Judean "Pillar-Base Figurines" Mothers or "Mother-Goddesses"? -- The House and the World The Israelite House as a Microcosm -- Healing Rituals at the Intersection of Family and Society -- Family Religion from a Northern Levantine Perspective -- Horses and Riders and Riders and Horses -- Feast Days and Food Ways Religious Dimensions of Household Life -- The Roles of Kin and Fictive Kin in Biblical Representations of Death Ritual -- A Typology of Iron Age Cult Places -- The Textual and Social Embeddedness of Israelite Family Religion Who Were the Players? Where Were the Stages? -- Index of Authors
Sommario/riassunto	This volume is the most recent collective contribution of a group of biblical scholars and archaeologists who are engaged in an ongoing debate about the nature of family and household religion in ancient Israel and its environment. It is intended to complement the volume Household and Family Religion in Antiquity, edited by John Bodell and Saul M. Olyan, which grew out of a conference held at Brown University

in 2005 on household and family religion in the ancient Mediterranean world, with an emphasis on cross-cultural comparison. Several meetings after the Brown conference carried the theme forward, and a fourth meeting at Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster in April 2009 emphasized theoretical and methodological challenges facing scholars of household and family religion (e.g., the conceptualization of family/household religion, the problem of identifying pertinent artifacts, and the difficulties inherent in using texts together with material evidence). This volume is a direct outgrowth of the Münster meeting. For both the meeting and the volume, the goal was to bring together a group of specialists in biblical studies, epigraphy, and archaeology who would utilize a variety of humanistic and social-scientific approaches to the data and would also be willing to engage in dialogue and debate; during the conference in Münster, there was much vigorous intellectual engagement. The essays published here reflect the energy of that conference and will contribute, both individually and collectively, to the advancement of our knowledge of Israelite family and household religion.
